In the claims:

Claims 1-18 are standing for examination. Claims 13 and 15-18 are amended in the present response, claim 14 is cancelled.

1. (Original) A system for receiving and forwarding e-mail messages for a subscriber, the system comprising:

a server connected to a network; and

a Mail Alert code set resident and operable on the server;

wherein the MailAlert code set is adapted to compare characteristics of e-mail messages received for the subscriber to specific message characteristics provided by the subscriber and pre-stored on the server, to alert the subscriber when a characteristic match is found, and to execute following instructions from the subscriber for forwarding of the message received for which a match was found.

2. (Original) A system as in claim 1 wherein the subscriber is alerted on finding a characteristic match by sending a page to a paging device carried by the subscriber.

3. (Original) A system as in claim 1 further comprising a human interface whereby an operator causes received and matched mail to be forwarded to mail addresses provided by the subscriber responding to the alert by conversing with the operator via telephone.

4. (Original) A system as in claim 1 further comprising a telephone menu system whereby a subscriber, responding to an alert, may log in, identify messages, select

from recorded options, and input information for forwarding of identified messages.

5. (Original) An e-mail server comprising:

an e-mail system adapted for receiving and forwarding e-mail; and

a Mail Alert system adapted to compare characteristics of e-mail messages received for the subscriber to specific message characteristics provided by the subscriber and pre-stored on the server, to alert the subscriber when a characteristic match is found, and to execute following instructions from the subscriber for forwarding of the message received for which a match was found.

6. (Original) An e-mail server as in claim 5 wherein the subscriber is alerted on finding a characteristic match by sending a page to a paging device carried by the subscriber.

7. (Original) An e-mail server as in claim 5 further comprising a human interface whereby an operator causes received and matched mail to be forwarded to mail addresses provided by the subscriber responding to the alert by conversing with the operator via telephone.

8. (Original) An e-mail server as in claim 5 further comprising a telephone menu system whereby a subscriber, responding to an alert, may log in, identify messages, select from recorded options, and input information for forwarding of identified messages.

9. (Original) A method for receiving, filtering, and routing e-mail messages, comprising steps of:

(a) prerecording on a mail server characteristics for messages to be routed, the characteristics provided by a subscriber;

(b) receiving messages addressed to the subscriber at the mail server;

(c) comparing characteristics of messages received to the prerecorded characteristics provided by the subscriber;

(d) identifying and storing on the mail server messages received for the subscriber for which a match is found to the prerecorded characteristics;

(e) alerting the subscriber to the receipt of one or more messages for which a characteristic match is found; and

(f) forwarding the stored messages for which a match is found to destinations provided by the subscriber in response to the alert.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein, in the alerting step, a page is sent to a pager carried by the subscriber to alert the subscriber to the receipt of the one or more messages.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein, in the forwarding step, an operator enters destinations provided by the subscriber by telephone conversation in response to the alert, and causes the one or more messages to be forwarded.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein, in the forwarding step, a subscriber, in response to the alert, interacts with a phone menu system, identifying messages and selecting destinations for forwarding.

13. (Currently Amended) A machine-intelligent An agent for processing e-mail messages, comprising:

a stored list of message characteristics provided by a subscriber;

a receiver adapted for receiving e-mail messages and ascertaining message characteristics of the received messages;

a comparator adapted for comparing characteristics of received messages with stored characteristics, and tagging those messages wherein the characteristics match; ~~and~~

an alert mechanism for alerting a subscriber to the receipt of messages having characteristics matching the stored characteristics; and

a save facility adapted for storing matched messages against future distribution instructions.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-intelligent~~ agent of claim ~~14~~ 13 wherein the alert mechanism comprises a page transmitter adapted for transmitting a page signal to a pager carried by the subscriber.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-intelligent~~ agent of claim ~~14~~ 13 further comprising a forwarding facility for retrieving and forwarding stored messages to destinations provided by the subscriber in response to the alert.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-intelligent~~ agent of claim 16 wherein the forwarding facility comprises a human interface for identifying messages to be retrieved, retrieving the identified messages, and forwarding the identified messages to destinations provided to an operator by the subscriber.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine-intelligent~~ agent of claim 16 wherein the forwarding facility comprises an automated telephone menu system adapted for

providing choices to a subscriber connecting to the forwarding facility by telephone, wherein the subscriber calling in may identify stored messages to be forwarded, and the agent will retrieve and forward the identified messages to destinations provided by the subscriber calling in response to the alert.